

---

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

**Pliocene planktic foraminifer census data from  
Deep Sea Drilling Project Hole 463 and Ocean  
Drilling Program Hole 769B**

Emerson Polanco and Harry Dowsett

U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, Va. 22092



Open-File Report 93-308

This report is preliminary and has not been reviewed for conformity  
with U.S. Geological Survey editorial standards

---

# Pliocene planktic foraminifer census data from Deep Sea Drilling Project Hole 463 and Ocean Drilling Program Hole 769B

Emerson Polanco and Harry Dowsett  
U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, Va. 22092

## INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Geological Survey is conducting a long-term study of the climatic and oceanographic conditions of the Pliocene. One of the major elements of the study involves the use of quantitative composition of planktic foraminifer assemblages in conjunction with stable isotope analysis of planktic and benthic foraminifers to estimate sea-surface temperatures and identify major oceanographic boundaries and water masses in the North Pacific region. We anticipate analyzing many samples during the project,

which will result in a large volume of raw census data. In addition, it is likely that all or some of the census data from individual cores will be incorporated into analyses for more than one report over the course of the project. Therefore we have decided to make the raw census data available in a series of open-file reports that will provide basic data for future work. In this report we present counting categories and raw census data for planktic foraminifer assemblages in 34 samples from DSDP Hole 463 and ODP Hole 769B (Fig. 1).

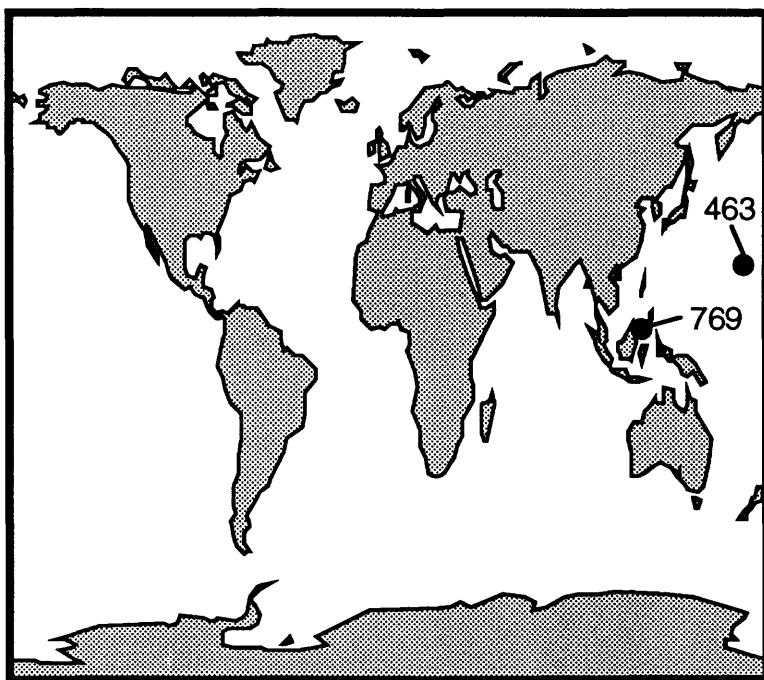


FIGURE 1. Location of Sites 463 and 769.

A variety of statistical techniques are being developed to transform census data of planktic foraminifers in Pliocene deep-sea cores into quantitative estimates of Pliocene sea-surface temperatures. Details of statistical techniques, details of taxonomic groupings, and oceanographic interpretations are presented in more formal publications (Dowsett and Poore, 1990, 1991; Dowsett, 1991).

Latitude, longitude, and water depth for each locality are in Table 1. Counts of variables tabulated in each sample are given in Tables 2-3.

**TABLE 1. Localities discussed in text**

Site	Lat.	Lon.	Depth
463	21.35N	174.66E	2525.0 m
769	8.78N	121.21E	3643.6 m

## METHODS

The samples used in this study were washed using low temperature (isotope) procedures. Sediment samples were dried in an oven at  $\leq 50^{\circ}\text{C}$  and weighed. The dried bulk sample was disaggregated in a beaker with warm tap water and about 2 ml of dilute calgon solution (5 gm calgon to 1 liter water). The beaker was agitated on a shaker/hot plate without heating. Samples were then washed through a 63  $\mu\text{m}$  sieve using a fine spray hose and dried in an oven at  $\leq 50^{\circ}\text{ C}$ . ODP Hole 769B samples required an additional treatment with  $\text{NaCO}_3$  added to the wash in order to obtain clean specimens. Weights were then obtained for the fine and coarse fractions of each sample.

A split of 300-350 planktic foraminifer specimens was obtained from the  $\geq 149 \mu\text{m}$  size fraction using a Carpco sample splitter. Specimens were identified, sorted, and glued to a standard 60 square micropaleontological slide.

## COUNTING CATEGORIES

The taxonomic names used in Tables 2 and 3 as well as taxon codes used in other publications are summarized in a comprehensive list below. In general, our taxonomic concepts follow Parker (1962; 1967) and Blow (1969). Exceptions to their practices are noted below.

DSDP and ODP sample designations are abbreviated in Tables 2-3 as core-section, depth within section in centimeters (eg. 10-5, 34 = core 10, section 5, 34 cm below top of section 5). The depth column lists depth of sample below sea floor in meters.

Code	Taxon (taxa) comments
Cande	<i>Candeina</i>
bulls	<i>Globigerina bulloides</i> (d'Orbigny) and <i>G. praebulloides</i> Blow
falco	<i>Globigerina falconensis</i> Blow
pseud	<i>Globigerina pseudobesa</i> (Salvatorini)
incis	<i>Globigerina incisa</i> (Bronnimann and Resig)
praed	<i>Globigerina praeditata</i> Parker
woodi	<i>Globigerina woodi</i> Jenkins and <i>G. apertura</i> Cushman
decor	<i>Globigerina decoraperta</i> Takayanagi and Saito
nepen	<i>Globigerina nepenthes</i> Todd
sp. 1	<i>Globigerina</i> sp. 1. Taxon resembles <i>G. falconensis</i> but has reticulate surface texture similar to <i>G. woodi</i> group.
aequi	<i>Globigerinella aequilateralis</i> (Brady)
gluti	<i>Globigerinita glutinata</i> (Egger) s.l.
congl	<i>Globigerinoides conglobatus</i> (Brady)
obliq	<i>Globigerinoides obliquus</i> Bolli and <i>G. extremus</i> Bolli and Bermudez

ruber *Globigerinoides ruber* (d'Orbigny)

saccu *Globigerinoides sacculifer* (Brady), *G. quadrilobatus* (d'Orbigny) and *G. trilobus* (Reuss)

Gnoid *Globigerinoides* spp. Representatives of *Globigerinoides* (usually small) that could not be confidently assigned to *G. ruber*, *G. obliquus* (s.l.) or *G. conglobatus*.

Pulln *Pulleniatina* spp. Includes individuals of *Pulleniatina obliquiloculata* (Parker and Jones) and *Pulleniatina primalis* Banner and Blow.

altis *Globoquadrina altispira* (Cushman and Jarvis)

venez *Globoquadrina venezuelana* (Hedberg)

cibao *Globorotalia cibaoensis* Bermudez  
conom *Globorotalia conomiozea* Kennett

crass *Globorotalia crassaformis* (Galloway and Wissler). This category includes *G. ronda* Blow and *G. oceanica* Cushman and Bermudez. Specimens with a distinct keel on the entire ultimate whorl are tabulated separately under "kcras".

kcras This category includes *G. crassaformis* with fully keeled ultimate whorl.

viola *Globorotalia viola* Blow. Both encrusted (*G. crassula* of Blow, 1969) and non-encrusted specimens are included.

hirsu *Globorotalia hirsuta* (d'Orbigny)

plata *Globorotalia inflata* (d'Orbigny) and *G. puncticulata* (Deshayes)

marga *Globorotalia margaritae* Bolli and Bermudez

menar *Globorotalia menardii* (Parker, Jones, and Brady) s.l. This category includes various members of the *G. menardii* lineage such as *G. limbata* (Fornasini) and *G. miocenica* Palmer.

pumil This category includes small forms with 5-7 chambers in the ultimate whorl that are similar to *Globorotalia pumilio* Parker, *G. praepumilio* (Parker) and *G. pseudopumilio* Bronnimann and Resig.

scitu *Globorotalia scitula* (Brady) s.l. This category includes various members of the *G. scitula* group, for example *G. subscitula* Conato.

tocat *Globorotalia tosaensis* Takayanagi and Saito and *G. truncatulinoides* (d'Orbigny)

tumid *Globorotalia tumida* (Brady) s.l. This category includes *G. plesiotumida* Blow and Banner.

hexag *Globorotaloides hexagona* (Natland)

acost *Neogloboquadrina acostaensis* (Blow) and *N. continuosa* (Blow)

satca *Neogloboquadrina atlantica* (Berggren) left-coiling. See Poore and Berggren, 1975 for discussion of this highly variable taxon.

datca *Neogloboquadrina atlantica* (Berggren) right-coiling

humero *Neogloboquadrina humerosa* (Takayanagi and Saito)

spach *Neogloboquadrina pachyderma* (Ehrenberg) left-coiling. Relatively small, compact *Neogloboquadrina* with 4-5 chambers in the ultimate whorl, kummerform ultimate chamber, and a slightly to distinct oval equatorial outline are included here. Separating small left-coiling *N. atlantica* from large left-coiling *N. pachyderma* is arbitrary in many North Atlantic high-latitude sites.

dpach *Neogloboquadrina pachyderma* (Ehrenberg) right-coiling. This category is restricted to specimens with 4 chambers in the ultimate whorl. Right-coiling specimens close to *N. pachyderma* that have more than 4 chambers in the ultimate whorl are tabulated as "dupac".

dupac This category is used for specimens of right-coiling *Neogloboquadrina* with more

than four chambers in the ultimate whorl that are transitional between *N. pachyderma* and *N. acostaensis* or *N. atlantica*.

**Neogl** This category includes *Neogloboquadrina* that were not identified to specific level but generally does not include representatives of *N. atlantica*.

**Orbul** *Orbulina universa* d'Orbigny

**Sphae** *Sphaeroidinella* and *Sphaeroidinellopsis*

**quinq** *Turborotalita quinqueloba* (Natland)

**OTHER** This category includes unidentified specimens and taxa that are rare within assemblages from the cores.

**TOTAL PLANK** Total number of planktic forams in the counting split.

**frags** fragments of planktic foraminifers

**bform** benthic foraminifers

estimating Pliocene through Holocene Sea Surface temperatures, *Marine Micropaleontology* v.16, p. 1-23.

Dowsett, H. J. and R. Z. Poore, 1991, Pliocene sea surface temperatures of the North Atlantic Ocean at 3.0 Ma, *Quaternary Science Reviews* v.10, p. 189-204.

Parker, F. L., 1962, Planktonic foraminiferal species in Pacific sediments, *Micropaleontology*, v. 8, p. 219-254.

\_\_\_\_\_, 1967, Late Tertiary biostratigraphy (Planktonic Foraminifera) of tropical Indo-Pacific deep-sea cores: *Bulletins of American Paleontology*, v. 52, p. 115-208.

Poore, R. Z., and Berggren, W. A., 1975, The morphology and classification of *Neogloboquadrina atlantica* (Berggren), *Journal of Foraminiferal Research*, v. 5, p. 77-84.

---

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Scott Ishman and Debra Willard for reviewing this manuscript and Stephanie West for assistance with sample preparation. We also thank ODP for access to the samples. This report is a product of the PRISM (Pliocene Research, Interpretation, and Synoptic Mapping) Project.

## REFERENCES

Blow, W. H., 1969, Late middle Eocene to Recent planktonic foraminiferal biostratigraphy. In Bronnimann, P. and Renz, H. H., (Eds), *Proceedings of First Planktonic Conference*: Leiden (E. J. Brill), p. 199-422.

Dowsett, H. J., 1991, The development of a long-range foraminifer transfer function and application to Late Pleistocene North Atlantic climatic extremes, *Paleoceanography*, v.6, p. 259-273.

Dowsett, H. J. and R. Z. Poore 1990, A new planktic foraminifer transfer function for

**Table 2** Faunal census data, DSPP Hole 463.

Table 3. Faunal census data, ODP Hole 769B